District Attorney Asks For An Embargo On Case Details

Physicians who attended Senator Robert F. Kennedy said that they had been requested by the office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney not to discuss details with representatives of communications media. This request was still in effect June 7.

A *JAMA* news editor on the scene learned that the request by the office of District Attorney Evelle J. Younger was a move to avoid possible prejudice by pretrial comment. It was made after a televised press conference by Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty at which such evidential matters were discussed in detail.

One of the first physicians to reach Senator Kennedy was Ross Miller, Jr., MD, a general surgeon who was in the Ambassador Hotel at the time the Senator was shot, shortly after 12:15 AM, Wednesday, June 5.

The ambulance carrying Senator Kennedy from the hotel arrived at the Central Receiving Hospital at 12:30 AM. V. Faustin Bazilauskas, MD, and Albert C. Holt, MD, gave emergency treatment.

The Senator was transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital at 12:57 AM.

He underwent surgery at 2:45 AM for a gunshot wound to the head. The surgery, performed by Henry M. Cuneo, MD, associate clinical professor of neurological surgery at the University of Southern California; Nat D. Reid, MD, and Maxwell M. Andler Jr., MD, lasted three hours and 40 minutes.

Senator Kennedy was transferred to the hospital's intensive care unit on the hospital's fifth floor where he died at 1:44 AM, Thursday, June 6.

Thomas T. Noguchi, MD, chief medical examiner and coroner, said death was due to a bullet which entered through the mastoid bone behind the right ear. The bullet shattered, scattering fragments of bone and metal on a diagonal path through the midbrain and cerebrum. The superior cerebellar artery was also damaged.

A second bullet which entered Senator Kennedy's body underneath the right arm was recovered from beneath the skin at the lower neck. The wound was not life-threatening.

Assisting during the autopsy were John Holloway, MD, and Abraham M. Lu, MD, of the coroner's staff, and three pathologists from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Pierre Fink, MC, USA; Donald C. Stahl, MC, USN, and Kenneth Earle, MD.